

CHAPTER 6.0

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS REQUIRED BY CEQA

6.1 SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS WHICH CANNOT BE AVOIDED IF THE PROPOSED PROJECT IS IMPLEMENTED

The Program EIR evaluated the proposed project with respect to Aesthetics; Air Quality; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Geology and Soils; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Hydrology and Water Quality; Land Use and Planning; Noise; Transportation/ Traffic; and Utilities and Service Systems. As described in *Chapter 4.0*, potentially significant impacts would occur for the issue areas of Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Geology and Soils; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Hydrology and Water Quality; Noise; and Transportation/Traffic.

As discussed in *Chapter 4.0*, mitigation measures would reduce impacts for all of these CEQA issue areas. With mitigation, the residual impact is less than significant for all issue areas.

6.2 SIGNIFICANT IRREVERSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES WHICH WOULD BE CAUSED BY THE PROPOSED PROJECT SHOULD IT BE IMPLEMENTED

Water and sewer infrastructure components, once constructed, may be considered permanent. Occasionally facilities are abandoned/removed or upgraded once operation has resulted in the deterioration of their working condition. The systems for which water and sewer facilities are a part are integrally dependent on all their working components. Should components become deteriorated, malfunction or obsolete, replacement must occur. Because the implementation of many projects within the Master Plans would be implemented far into the future and because implementation and timing may affect land use decisions, adoption of the Master Plan Updates would leave the commitment of resources open in the future.

The project components would support existing and planned growth within the City and Districts' service areas. Where impacts are significant as defined by CEQA and the City, this Program EIR includes a process to identify and mitigate such impacts. Having said this, impacts such as changes in the visual appearance of a setting or hillside due to a pump station installation would be considered an irreversible change. Implementation of pipeline facilities within sensitive biological areas also may result in irreversible change to the hydrologic and biological environments of these sensitive areas.

Construction of all project components would be carried out according to all applicable engineering standards to reduce, as much as possible, accidents related to offsite runoff during or post-construction. It should be noted that accidents from both human and naturally caused situations can compromise the integrity of best management practice mitigation measures. For example, a severe storm of unprecedented level could impact the area; precautions included in the project to prevent damage from occurring as a result of this type of severe event may be compromised. Depending on the type of disaster and the resources impacted, significant irreversible environmental commitments of resources may occur. However, there will likely be mitigation programs which can partially mitigate for large, unforeseen disasters. Following engineering standards set out in the Master Plan Updates is the best defense against an unforeseen event and therefore an unforeseen commitment of resources.

Construction of water and sewer facilities involves the relatively permanent consumption of building materials such as pipeline components, wood for stability structures and energy for digging and earthmoving tasks. These resources, although at some extent in the long-term may be recycled, are considered to be permanently consumed. This type of commitment of resources is neither unusual nor unexpected given the nature of the facilities and is generally understood to be the tradeoff for benefits the system provides to the community.

6.3 GROWTH INDUCING IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Induced growth is that which exceeds the planned growth and results from new developments that would not have taken place in absence of the project. Growth inducement impacts can result in accelerated economic or population growth, or the construction of new housing, that either directly or indirectly resulted from building a project.

Section 15126.2(d) of the CEQA Guidelines requires that EIRs discuss whether a proposed project could:

“...foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment. Included in this are projects which would remove obstacles to population growth (a major expansion of a waste water treatment plant might, for example, allow for more construction in service areas). Increases in the population may tax existing community service facilities, requiring construction of new facilities that could cause significant environmental

effects. Also (the environmental analysis must) discuss the characteristics of some projects which may encourage and facilitate other activities that could significantly affect the environment, either individually or cumulatively. It must not be assumed that growth in any area is necessarily beneficial, detrimental, or of little significance to the environment.”

The proposed project is the City of Carlsbad Water and Sewer Master Plan Updates, which is a multi-year master plan for facility improvements within the CMWD and CSD. The Master Plan Updates include a review of existing and projected flows, design criteria, capacity analyses, existing conditions assessment, and CIP. The improvement projects detailed in the CIP range from minor projects such as manhole replacements, to major infrastructure improvements such as replacement of a sewer main and installation of a new water reservoir. The CIP includes 84 improvement projects to be built by 2020.

Generally, growth-inducing projects possess such characteristics as being located in isolated, undeveloped or underdeveloped areas, necessitating the extension of major infrastructure (*e.g.*, sewer and water facilities, roadways, etc.), or those that could encourage “premature” or unplanned growth (*i.e.*, “leap-frog” development). While infrastructure improvements, like those planned in the Water and Sewer Master Plans’ CIPs, raises the issue of growth inducement, the proposed project is not considered to be growth inducing because the proposed project would not provide additional long-term employment opportunities, no residences are planned as part of the proposed project, and no extension of services beyond that currently planned for in respective planning documents (*e.g.*, City of Carlsbad General Plan) is associated with the proposed project.

In calculating flow projections for the project, the Master Plan Updates relied on recent regional population projections published by SANDAG. The ultimate flow projections were based on existing unit flow generation rates which were then applied to SANDAG 2020 population projections. Therefore, the CIP projects would not generate additional population or cumulatively exceed official regional or local population projections. In addition, because no unplanned growth would be served by the project, the project would not remove an obstacle to growth.

The facilities in the proposed Master Plan Updates are community service facilities, serving an urban infrastructure necessary to support economic and population growth. Their size and capacities are predicated on the projected growth that relates to the type

of land use and the SANDAG population estimates and projections (SANDAG 2020 Cities/County Forecast). For that reason, the facilities in the Master Plan Updates would not induce growth guided by the City's planning documents.

6.4 EFFECTS NOT FOUND TO BE SIGNIFICANT

The CEQA Guidelines (§ 15128) require that the environmental document include a brief discussion of various environmental issues that were determined not to be significant. This Program EIR addressed all probable or foreseeable possible effects of the proposed project. Based on the discussions presented in *Chapter 4.0*, effects were not found to be significant for the following issue areas: Aesthetics; Air Quality; and Land Use and Planning.

Based on the public scoping process for this project (refer to *Section 1.3.1*), the following issue areas were not considered to be areas of controversy, and were not addressed in *Chapter 4.0* of the EIR. Hence, an evaluation of Agricultural Resources, Energy Resources, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, and Utilities and Service Systems, those issues not addressed in *Chapter 4.0* of this Program EIR, follows.

Agricultural Resources

Agriculture is an important resource in Carlsbad. The City has several agricultural policies in place that are intended to support agricultural activities while planning for the possible future transition of the land to more urban uses consistent with the policies of the General Plan and the Carlsbad LCP. The City's LCP protects agricultural lands from the premature conversion to more urban land uses by establishing programs which require mitigation for conversion of agricultural property to urban uses. As stated in the Open Space and Conservation Element of the City's General Plan, it is the City's intention to support and utilize all measures available to secure agricultural land uses for as long as possible prior to development, and to promote the long-term economic viability of agricultural uses. However, the projected pattern of development in Carlsbad is such that the extensive areas generally required for economic agricultural operations are unlikely to be available in the long-term. In many cases, the agricultural use of property is an interim or transitional use due to economic factors and the ultimate development potential of a parcel.

There are only a limited number of areas within the City that are considered to possess important farmlands as defined by the California Department of Conservation. The City consists mainly of Urban and Built-Up Land along the western, southern, and northwestern portions of the City, with large areas of Other Land interspersed

throughout the eastern and central portions. Implementation of the two Master Plan Updates will not result in significant impacts to agricultural resources. The project, located mostly within existing or future streets and disturbed areas, would not result in the conversion of important farmlands to non-agricultural uses, and will not conflict with any Williamson Act contracts in the City.

Energy Resources

The projects proposed in the two Master Plan Updates would not significantly affect local or regional energy supplies, nor would the projects conflict with adopted energy conservation plans. The proposed power-consuming facilities (*i.e.*, pump stations and lift stations) would incorporate new energy-efficient technologies, which utilize non-renewable resources in an efficient manner. Energy consumption from construction-related activities necessary for development of the proposed facilities would be relatively minor and impacts would not be significant to existing energy resources.

For some project components, use of SDGE's rights-of-way may be required. In these instances, coordination would be made with SDGE to ensure that the utility provider would be able to adequately access their facilities. It is not anticipated that relocation of any SDGE facilities is required for implementation of the various water and sewer project components. Nonetheless, access and potential relocation issues, as well as grading or encroachment into SDGE rights-of-way, would be determined at the project level of analysis for each project component. Impacts would not be significant at this program level of analysis.

Population and Housing

The proposed Master Plan Updates would extend and improve existing water supply and sewer infrastructure within the City in accordance with regional population projections and as needed by the demand that the forecasted additional population would place upon these services. The proposed projects would be phased so that the infrastructure would be developed concurrently with the increased housing demand and population. The Master Plan Updates would not result in significant impacts to the City's projected population and housing needs.

Public Services

The implementation of the Master Plan Updates would not require new services for the following: fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, or other public facilities; no

impact would occur. Emergency access would not be significantly affected, as described in *Sections 4.10.3 and 4.10.4*.

The project would not affect existing primary and secondary schools within the area. Implementation of the project in the manner or location planned would not result in impacts to proposed schools. Additional demands on existing public parks would not occur. New or improved park facilities would not be necessary as a result of implementing the project.

The proposed project would not exceed official regional or local population projections. The size, capacity, and location of all facilities would be based on the population and land use analysis contained in the Master Plan Updates which, in turn, is based on forecast growth identified in the City of Carlsbad General Plan, and systems would be sized appropriately to serve projected service populations.

Recreation

Implementation of the Master Plan Updates may cause potential conflicts with existing parks or recreational uses where facilities are proposed adjacent to these facilities. Potential conflicts with these types of facilities will be identified in the engineering and design stage of all phases of the project. The Districts are both obligated to coordinate all construction, repair, and maintenance activities with all park and recreation agencies whose facilities may be affected in the planning stage. Consequently, the required coordination with the affected agencies would reduce the potential conflicts to a less than significant level. The project would not result in increased demand for recreational uses, or prevent access to parks or recreational facilities.

Utilities and Service Systems

The proposed projects to be developed with implementation of the two Master Plan Updates would not significantly affect utilities and service systems. The proposed facilities would not place substantial demands upon the City's utilities such as power and natural gas. The project facilities' impacts on the area's communications systems would occur as necessary safety and operating measures. Overall, these would be short-term minor impacts.